

43,873). In that interview the Applicants and the Examiner agreed that the cited references do not teach or suggest Applicants' invention as claimed, and therefore do not render the invention obvious, particularly with regard to claims 1 and 26.

With regard to claim 1, Applicants and the Examiner agreed that the art of record does not teach or suggest a method for electronic trading of stocks, the method comprising users of an electronic system agreeing anonymously to trade stock and, if there is no better trade in an order for the stock originating from outside the system, electronically executing the trade agreed to by the parties, otherwise executing the better trade.

With regard to claim 26, the art of record does not teach or suggest a method of determining interest in a stock among users of an electronic trading system, the method comprising the system transmitting an indicator of interest in a stock to users of the system selected by a user when the user enters an order for the stock.

For at least the same reasons, the cited references fail to render the remaining claims obvious as well.

It being agreed by Applicants and the Examiner that the claimed invention is distinguishable over and not obvious in light of the art of record, the Examiner undertook to perform a further prior art search. The Examiner agreed that in the event any additional art is to be cited a new, non-final action will be entered.

CONCLUSION

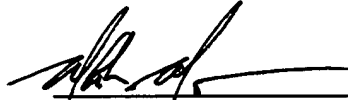
Applicants believe that they have fully responded to each of the concerns stated in the 15 April 2002 office action, and that the claims are in condition for immediate allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims.

Applicants request that any questions or comments concerning this matter be directed to the undersigned at (212) 895-2906.

I certify that this paper, together with any documents referred to as attached or enclosed, are being deposited this date with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C., 20231. This paper is also being filed this date by hand.

Respectfully submitted,

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